



Dragon Boat Festival Weekend Budget Tour

TOUR

June 11th - 15th 2021

4 nights in North Korea + Beijing-Pyongyang travel time

OVERVIEW

This tour is designed for those who are looking for an active weekend in North Korea during the Chinese Dragon Boat Festival long weekend. Looking for a quick escape out of China? Put that *zongzi* down and look no further.

This action-packed long weekend getaway is an introduction to North Korea through outdoor and indoor activities. Early risers can have a morning run on Pyongyang's Sports Street and be overtaken by North Korean athletes during their morning training.

We'll hang out with the locals in Moranbong Park - a popular place for a picnic, drinking sessions, and dancing - on their day off. Plus, get the rare chance to tour the highlights of [Pyongyang](#) by bike before finishing off at [Munsu Water Park](#) to relax with the locals. The Dragon Boat Festival Tour will also get you to the DMZ, the most heavily fortified border on earth, and a viewpoint of the [Concrete Wall](#), an anti-tank barrier built in the 1970s by the south across the entire [DMZ](#). The 45-minute scenic drive from [Kaesong](#) will also give you a rare insight into rural North Korea.

Why not escape China at one of its busiest times for [Chinese National Day](#) too?

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DAILY ITINERARY

JUNE 10 – THURSDAY

***Pre-Tour Briefing** | We require all travellers to attend a pre-tour briefing that covers regulations, etiquette, safety, and practicalities for travel in North Korea. The briefing lasts approximately one hour followed by a question and answer session. Please be punctual for the briefing. You can come early, meet your fellow travellers, pay any outstanding tour fees and browse our collection of Korean art. A proper briefing is an essential part of travel to North Korea.

PM

- 14:00 | Recommended latest arrival in Beijing.
- **18:00 | Our group assembles for a pre-tour group briefing at the Koryo Tours office in Beijing.**

Overnight | Hotel in Beijing not included in the tour for those taking the flight the next day. Contact us for recommendations near our office! Those travelling by train will spend the night on the train.

JUNE 11 – FRIDAY

Arrival day in Pyongyang

AM

- **08:30 | Free bus** from the Koryo Tours office to Beijing Capital Airport Terminal 2 for those taking the flight. Exact time TBC at the pre-tour briefing. Alternatively meet the group at the Air Koryo check-in counter.

PM

- Flight departure from Beijing on **Air Koryo flight JS152** at 12:00. A 1.5-hour flight with basic lunch (vegetarian option is subject to availability).
- **Flight arrival to Pyongyang's Sunan International Airport** (FNJ) at 15:00. DPRK immigration and customs, meet your Korean guides, and transfer to the city.
- **Grand People's Study House** | Huge national library and public university housed in a large neo-traditional Korean building overlooking Kim Il Sung Square and the downtown Pyongyang.
- **Walk on Future Scientists' Street** | An evening stroll through one of Pyongyang's newest neighbourhoods.

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Overnight | [Ryanggang Hotel](#), Pyongyang. The two rivers hotel (so named as it sits on a hill overlooking the point where the Potong river and Taedong Rivers meet). The hotel offers great views over different parts of the city (depending on which side of the building you stay on) from the open balconies, and also from the 'swivelling' restaurant. The underground karaoke room here is excellent and the bar in the lobby is also great.

JUNE 12 – SATURDAY

Pyongyang City Tour

AM

- Optional morning run for the early risers on **Sports Street** past stadiums and halls whose architecture reflects the sports played within.
- [Pyongyang Metro Tour](#) | One of the deepest metro systems in the world with stunning artwork reflecting the name of each station. Ride six stations on the Chollima Line.
- [Arch of Triumph](#) | A 60-m archway commemorating the liberation of Korea from Japanese colonial rule and larger than its counterpart in Paris.
- [Mansudae Fountain Park](#) | The historic centre of Pyongyang popular with local citizens after school and on weekends. Flanked by examples of ancient and modern architecture from different eras.
- [Mansudae Grand Monument](#) | Enormous bronze statues of the DPRK leadership overlooking downtown Pyongyang. A presentation of flowers and bow by the group is customary here. **Visitations are by special request only and decent dress is required. No shorts or flip-flop sandals allowed here.**
- [Okryugwan](#) | A meal at Pyongyang's most famous restaurant. Housed in a huge traditional building on the banks of the Taedong River. Okgyuwan specialises in Pyongyang Cold Noodles.

PM

- [Kwangbok Department Store](#) | Exchange for Korean currency and shop with the citizens of Pyongyang! Try the snack stands for some of Pyongyang's best local eats.
- **Taekwondo Class** | A 60 minute introductory class at the **Taekwondo Areana on Sports Street** to taekwondo the national martial art which all children learn to a certain degree in school.
- [Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum and USS Pueblo](#) | We'll tour this world-class museum led by a local museum guides. Renovated in 2012 and its exhibits of Korean War from the DPRK perspective containing artifacts, documents, photos, and lifelike dioramas. The exterior grounds

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house the War Victory Monument and displays of Korean People's Army Hero Equipment and captures equipment from the US military, including the spyship [USS Pueblo](#). Central to the understanding of the country today and highlight of the trip.

- [Mansugyo Beer Bar](#) | A beer bar serving seven types of beer. Popular with locals after work and on weekends. Best place to drink pints with local people.
- [Kaeson Funfair](#) | Take on the rides of Pyongyang's small but excellently located central funfair with the locals: pirate ship, 'vominator', rollercoaster, bumper cars, arcades, and more. *Entry and ride tickets purchased on the spot.*

Overnight | Ryanggang Hotel, Pyongyang

JUNE 13 – SUNDAY

Pyongyang City Tour and City Cycling

AM

- Optional morning run for the early risers on **Sports Street** past stadiums and halls whose architecture reflects the sports played within.
- [Mangyongdae Native House](#) | Birthplace and childhood home of President Kim Il Sung. A traditional Korean house in a beautiful natural surrounding.
- [City Cycling](#) | Tour Pyongyang on a bike (*please note that bicycles are limited to 20 spots*) starting from Kwangbok Department Store through downtown Pyongyang to the Party Foundation Monument stopping at:
 - [Kim Il Sung Square](#) | Pyongyang's central square lined with government ministries, museum and The Grand People's Study House, Korea's national library. See the centre of it all!
 - [Foreign Languages Bookshop](#) | Store selling Korean publications translated into English, German, French, Russian, Chinese, and Spanish. Also pick up DVDs, postcards, and small works of art.
 - [Tower of the Juche Idea](#) | Iconic tower dedicated to the DPRK's guiding philosophy on the Taedong River. Take the elevator to the top for 5 EUR for great views of the city.
 - [Monument to the Party Foundation](#) | Iconic structure featuring the hammer, sickle, writing brush which make up the emblem of the Worker's Party of Korea and represent workers, farmers, and intellectuals.

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- [Moranbong Park with picnic lunch](#) | We'll take a stroll and have picnic lunch in Pyongyang's central park popular with locals for picnics, dances, and sports. The park is filled with historic pavilions, walls, and monuments- modern and ancient, a few of which are among the traditional 'Eight Great Sights of Pyongyang'.

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- [Munsu Water Park](#) | We'll take a break at this outdoor and indoor water park with water slides, lap pools, and hot tubs. Bar, coffee shop, and shops for non-swimmers (Entry fee 2 EUR; swimming fee 10 EUR with suit rental).
- Drive south on the [Reunification Highway](#) to [Kaesong](#), historic capital of the medieval Koryo Dynasty (918-1392 AD). Once located in South Korea, the city changed hands during the Korean War. It is now located just north of the DMZ.
- Dinner with a live Kayagum performance - a traditional Korean instrument in a unique setting!

Overnight | [Minsok Folk Hotel, Kaesong](#). Traditional style hotel where guests sleep on heated floors in Korean style. Housed in beautiful courtyards of Kaesong's old city, structures date back to the Ri Dynasty. Basic bathroom facilities. Hot water not guaranteed and erratic electricity supply - please bring a torch.

JUNE 14 - MONDAY

Historic Kaesong and the Joint Security Area

AM

- [Old City Walk and South Gate](#) | A stroll from the hotel through Kaesong's historic district lined with homes dating back to the Ri Dynasty from the city's historic South Gate.
- [Panmunjom Armistice Village and DMZ](#) | The site of the signing of the 1953 armistice that ended the Korean War and demarcation line between north and south. On some days it is possible to visit the hut straddling the line, where negotiations between both sides once took place. Here we will be accompanied by military guides from the Korean People's Army.
- [Kaesong Koryo Museum](#) | Once the Songgyung Academy, a Confucian school, and now a museum on the Koryo Dynasty exhibiting historical objects, statues, pagodas, and porcelain from that era. A UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- [Kaesong Korean Stamp Exhibition Hall](#) | Store selling stamps, postcards, local ginseng, souvenirs, art, and more! One of the best postcard collections in the country and friendly staff.

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- [Traditional Royal Korean Lunch \(pangsanggi\)](#) | A meal made of 12 dishes served in brass bowls fit for the kings of old. The more dishes, the more distinguished the guest! Traditional Korean 'sweet meat soup' is an option here (5 EUR).

PM

- [Janam Hill](#) | Statues of the DPRK leadership on a hill overlooking Kaesong city and historic pavilion used for archery demonstrations in days of yore.
- [Concrete Wall and view of DMZ](#) | View of a complex fortification system erected on the southern boundary of the DMZ accompanied by a military guide. The wall is seen as evidence of intent to permanently divide the nation. A 45 minute drive each way from Kaesong through scenic countryside.
- Drive back to [Pyongyang](#) with a stop at the [Monument to the Three Charters of Reunification](#), a large stone archway over the highway memorializing joint agreements between north and south. A 3-hour drive.
- [Taedonggang Bar No. 3](#) | Upscale bar across the street from the Tower of the Juche Idea. There are a variety of beers on tap produced at Pyongyang's Taedonggang Brewery outside of town (2-2.5 EUR per glass).
- Dinner at [Duck BBQ Restaurant](#) | Famous restaurant in south Pyongyang specializing in duck meat barbecue on a grill. *Southcentral does it like nobody does!*

Overnight | Ryanggang Hotel, Pyongyang

JUNE 15 – TUESDAY

Departure Day from Pyongyang and Return to Beijing by flight

AM

- Flight departure from Pyongyang on **Air Koryo Flight JS151** at 08:35 with scheduled arrival at Beijing Capital Airport (PEK) Terminal 2 at 09:55.

End of Tour

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